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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health Professions

Board of Nursing

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Theresa Mullin, Jodi Power, Judy Viperman, and Ruth Glick

FROM: Nancy K. Durrett, Exec, Dir. *NKD*

DATE: November 25, 1996

SUBJECT: Issue of the Month

I have had some calls regarding the disposal of narcotics in the home following the patient's death when hospice nurses have been providing care. The question is what are the nurses responsibilities for the disposal. Scottie Russell advises me that the drugs belong to the patient and the nurse has no responsibility for the disposal. The nurse may assist the family in getting the medication out of the containers/cassette if deemed necessary.